

REMARKS

By the present response, claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10 and 15-16 have been amended, claim 16 has been canceled, and claims 18-19 have been added. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 1-15 and 17-19 remain pending and await further consideration.

Support for the foregoing claim amendments can be found at least at the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims.

In an Official Action dated March 12, 2009, the Examiner has indicated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I: claims 1-11, drawn to a method for follow-up treatment of the contour of the surface of at least one optical lens;

Group II: claims 12-14, drawn to a device for follow-up treatment of the contour of the surface of a least one optical lens;

Group III: claims 15-17, drawn to the use of the device.

Accordingly, applicant provisionally elects Group I, with traverse.

By the present response, claims 18 and 19 have been added. These claims are method claims depending from Group I. Thus, upon entry of the current response, **Claims 1-11 and 18-19 correspond to elected Group I.**

In addition, by the present response, claim 15 has been amended in a manner which introduces language therein reciting common technical features with Groups I and II. Thus, upon entry of the current response, it is respectfully submitted that Groups I, II and III are all directed to an invention possessing a common technical feature that is neither disclosed or suggested by the prior art. Thus, reconsideration

and withdrawal of the restriction requirement, rejoinder and examination of claims 1-15 and 17-19 together in a single application is respectfully requested.

Moreover, as set forth in M.P.E.P. § 803, there are two criteria for a proper restriction requirement between patentably distinct inventions: (1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and (2) there must be a **serious burden** on the Examiner if restriction is not required. This portion of the M.P.E.P. requires that if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner **must** examine it on the merits. Due to the close relationship of the subject matter recited in Groups I-III, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of all claims together would overlap to an extent that there is no serious burden if examined together.

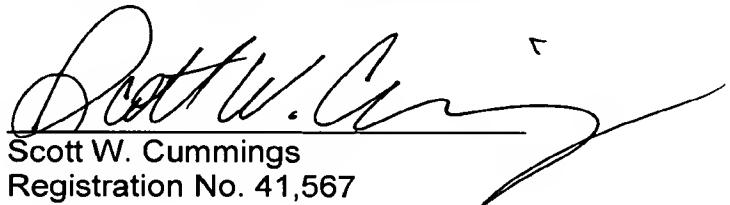
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the aforementioned restriction requirement is respectfully requested. The provisional election is hereby made without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a divisional application or applications or petition the restriction requirement should the restriction requirement become final.

Respectfully submitted,

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